

# Frontline *Duty*

BLURRED  
BATTLE LINES  
DIVERSIFY  
AIRMEN'S  
MISSION

**F**rontline duty for Airmen fighting the war on terrorism can mean doing many things around the globe. Things like:

- Blowing up explosives found under a road in Iraq;
- Lining up C-17 Globemaster IIIs all in a row before a huge air drop exercise;
- Helping South Koreans clean a beach after a massive holiday oil spill;
- Upgrading aging F-16 Fighting Falcon in South Korea;
- Role playing in an exercise to prepare for deployment to Southwest Asia;
- Wowing the crowd with a flyover during the Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas; and
- Refueling Marine Corps helicopters over the Gulf of Eden.

It's easy to see how some of these scattered events fit in as frontline duty. But since Sept. 11, 2001, the Air Force's role in the war on terrorism, a global battle, has expanded.

The front lines, once confined to where the bullets were flying, are now blurred.

In essence, frontline duty encompasses everything Airmen are doing, and will continue to do each day, around the world.

## Big boom.

photo by STAFF SGT. SAMUEL BENDET

An Air Force explosive ordnance disposal team sets off a controlled detonation of two 120mm artillery shells buried under the asphalt of a road in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, from their new mine-resistant ambush-protected armored vehicle. The Airmen work with Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 87th Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division. Iraqi citizens informed American forces about the roadside bomb.







**That's a big haul.** Crew chiefs stand ready to launch C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft from the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Seventeen of the huge cargo aircraft participated in a massive low-level airdrop exercise.

photo by SENIOR AIRMAN MICKEY M. BAZALDUA



**Beach cleanup.** Airmen and soldiers from Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and Korean citizens clean oil off rocks at Mallipo Beach. A barge spilled more than 2.7 million gallons of crude oil and some washed up on shore. More than 200,000 volunteers, 13 helicopters, 17 aircraft and 327 vessels took part in the cleanup effort.

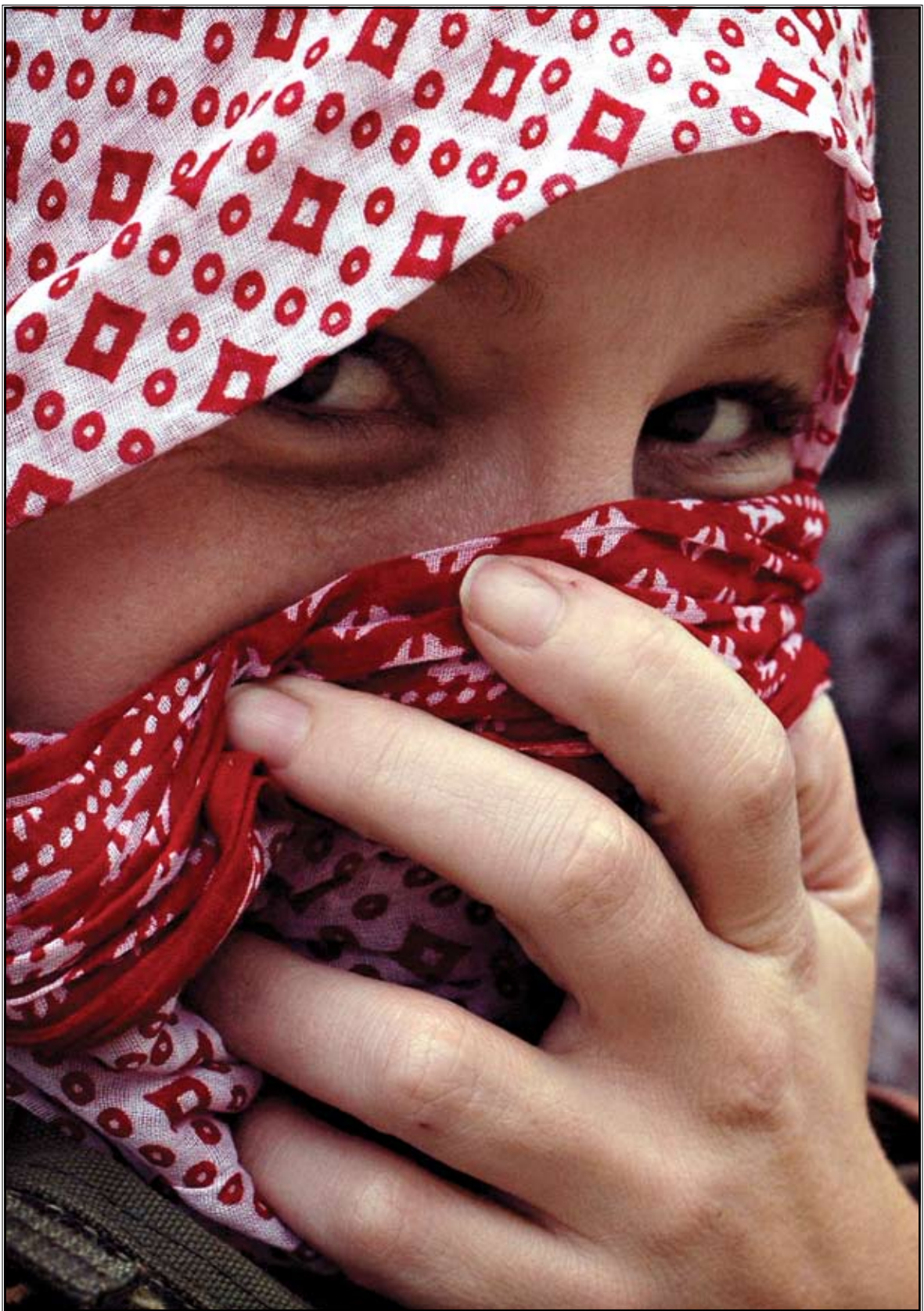
photo by SENIOR AIRMAN STEVEN R. DOTY



**Fancy Falcons.** A gray Kunsan Air Base F-16 Fighting Falcon (top) flies a training mission over South Korea with two F-16s from the 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Kunsan's "Wolf Pack" will begin flying the newer F-16s as part of the common configuration implementation program that ups the Falcon's mission capabilities and combat readiness.

photo by TECH. SGT. QUINTON T. BURRIS





**Roll playing.** Hiding her face as Muslim tradition dictates, Staff Sgt. Sara Nocher plays a villager during an Eagle Flag exercise at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., in January. The Expeditionary Operations School and 421st Combat Training Squadron at Fort Dix, N.J., host the exercise to prepare Airmen for deployment to bases in Southwest Asia.

photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS APRIL MEYER



**High fly by.** A B-1 Lancer, flanked by two F-22 Raptors, flies over the Armed Forces Bowl pre-game ceremonies at Fort Worth, Texas, in January. The U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons lost to the California Golden Bears, 42-36. It was the Falcon's first bowl appearance since 2002. The game drew a record 40,905 fans.

photo by MIKE KAPLAN



**Fill'er Up.** HC-130 Hercules loadmasters (left to right) Senior Airmen Daniel Sullivan and Renea Zachary watch a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter approach their tanker to refuel over the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Djibouti. The Airmen, deployed to Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, are with the 71st Expeditionary Search and Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

photo by TECH. SGT. JEREMY T. LOCK